

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1 - 9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (previously presented): A method of treating diarrhea, the method comprising administering to a mammal at risk of diarrhea an amount of a lactic acid bacterium of genus *Bifidobacterium* effective to prevent infection of intestinal cells of the mammal due to a rotavirus.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 10 wherein the *Bifidobacterium* is selected from the group consisting of *Bifidobacterium longum* and *Bifidobacterium adolescentis*.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 10 wherein the *Bifidobacterium* comprises *Bifidobacterium* CNCM I-2168.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 10 wherein the *Bifidobacterium* is administered via an ingestible carrier.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 13 wherein the ingestible carrier includes the *Bifidobacterium* in an amount ranging from about  $10^5$  cfu/g to about  $10^{12}$  cfu/g.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 13 wherein the ingestible carrier comprises a food composition selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milk, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, infant formula and pet food.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A method of preventing infection of intestinal cells of a mammal at risk of infection due to a rotavirus, the method comprising administering to the mammal a composition including a therapeutically effective amount of a Bifidobacterium strain.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 16 wherein the composition includes about  $10^5$  cfu/g to about  $10^{12}$  cfu/g of the Bifidobacterium strain.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 16 wherein the composition comprises a food composition selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milk, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, infant formula and pet food.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 16 wherein the composition comprises a pharmaceutical composition selected from the group consisting of a tablet, a liquid bacterial suspension, a dried oral supplement, a wet oral supplement, a dry tube feeding and wet tube feeding.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 16 wherein the Bifidobacterium strain is selected from the group consisting of Bifidobacterium longum, Bifidobacterium adolescentis, and Bifidobacterium CNCM I-2168.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A food composition comprising one or more Bifidobacterium strains capable of preventing infection of intestinal cells ~~in~~of a mammal due to a rotavirus.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The food composition according to Claim 21 wherein the food composition is selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milk, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, infant formula and pet food.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The food composition according to Claim 21 wherein the food composition includes about  $10^{11}$  cfu/g or less of the Bifidobacterium strains.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The food composition according to Claim 21 wherein the food composition includes about  $10^5$  cfu/g to about  $10^{11}$  cfu/g of the Bifidobacterium strains.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The food composition according to Claim 21 wherein the Bifidobacterium strains are selected from the group consisting of Bifidobacterium longum, Bifidobacterium adolescentis, and Bifidobacterium CNCM I-2168.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more Bifidobacterium strains capable of preventing infection of intestinal cells of a mammal due to a rotavirus.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 26 wherein the pharmaceutical composition is selected from the group consisting of a tablet, a liquid bacterial suspension, a dried oral supplement, a wet oral supplement, a dry tube feeding and wet tube feeding.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 26 wherein the pharmaceutical composition includes about  $10^{12}$  cfu/g or less of the Bifidobacterium strains.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 26 wherein the pharmaceutical composition includes about  $10^7$  cfu/g to about  $10^{11}$  cfu/g of the Bifidobacterium strains.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 26 wherein the Bifidobacterium strains are selected from the group consisting of Bifidobacterium adolescentis, Bifidobacterium longum and Bifidobacterium CNCM I-2168.